

Army Returns 30,000 a Month

No Increase in Rate Can Be Made at Present, War Department Says.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The war department, reporting that it now is returning to this country approximately 30,000 men monthly, says it cannot increase the number substantially and continue to press the war "vigilantly to an early conclusion."

The report, to the house military committee, was prepared as a result of increasing requests for furloughs for men serving abroad.

To permit the return of even 30,000 men monthly, the department says, "we must immobilize four to seven times this number, or the equivalent of eight to fourteen divisions. For every man that we add to this number being returned, the army would lose the effective use of from four to seven additional soldiers."

Selection of individuals to be returned under quotas assigned to overseas commanders, the report explained, is "the sole responsibility of the authorities in the field." Determination with consideration given to the length of service of each individual, his value to his unit and "the morale of the individual in the unit, including the extent of rebuilding of mind and body required."

Get No Assurance.

"In no instance," the department said, "can a soldier be assured that he will be returned as soon as he has served for a stated time." Generally speaking, men are returned for rehabilitation, recuperation and recovery under three different situations, the report explained.

"Reduction in the size of our forces in areas where further threats from the enemy are not anticipated has permitted the return of some men. Others are being sent back to this country on temporary duty for a rest period, after which they are returned overseas. Still others are returned on rotation and are reassigned to other duties upon their arrival in the United States."

Soldiers capable of further useful service abroad, the department said, are returned "only if trained replacements are available . . . or if the total strength of the command can be reduced either temporarily or permanently."

Transportation Problem.

The availability of shipping space, the report pointed out, "imposes a very definite ceiling" on transfers. While a man sent home from abroad for subsequent return to his unit may obtain only 30 days' furlough, the report said, he actually is absent from his unit for approximately four months, the balance of time being used for transportation and for retraining. On the other hand, a man returned for subsequent assignment to a new overseas post may be absent from an active theater for six or seven months because of the longer period of training required.

Nazi Weather Station

In Greenland Captured

WASHINGTON, D. C. — American forces have captured what is believed to be the last of Germany's hidden weather stations in Greenland, an army air force official disclosed recently. Three officers, nine men and a considerable quantity of radio, scientific and ordnance equipment were seized.

Several similar installations had been captured previously. The Germans used such stations not only to provide data for their own operations but to give them clues as to what the Allies might be doing or planning to do.

Mars Ends 1,000 Hours' Flying Time to Hawaii

PACIFIC FLEET HQ, PEARL HARBOR. — The U. S. S. Mars, largest flying boat in the world, landed here recently to complete 1,000 hours flying time between Pearl Harbor and San Francisco, Calif. In that time she has flown more than 200,000 miles and has carried a million pounds of cargo. She carried the customary 25 passengers, 4,000 pounds of mail, and 25,000 pounds of cargo in her latest flight.

Fortress No. 10,000 Is Delivered to U. S. Army

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — "The Grand," the 10,000th Flying Fortress, has left the production line. In quick succession, the aircraft was produced, announced, the first took delivery of No. 9,999 from Douglas Aircraft company in near-by Long Beach, No. 10,000 from Boeing in Seattle, and No. 10,001 from Lockheed in Burbank, Calif.

Fred Astaire Picks Up Teeth Forgotten by Nazis

NEW YORK. — Dancer Fred Astaire sported several sets of false teeth recently. The teeth were his but he wasn't wearing them. They're his favorite trophy from a USO tour of front lines in France, Belgium, and Holland.

The Germans were running away so fast they left everything behind, Astaire said in an interview. "They were in such a terrific hurry, they forgot their teeth."

'Don't Worry' Plea Of Yank Captives

War Department Has Data On Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — "Dear mom and pop, don't worry!" write 9 out of 10 of the 45,000 or more American prisoners of war in letters from the enemy prison camps. Army officials revealed this typical plea to the folks back home during the first press tour of the prisoners of war information bureau at the United States war department, this is the "only official source of information in the United States concerning Americans who are in prison camps of our enemies," they said.

Americans held by enemies also include approximately 100,000 civilian internees, about 75 per cent held by the Japanese, in addition to the military men and civilians who worked with United States services who are counted as war prisoners. About 500 women civilians are held in German camps, but no nurses or WACS.

Quickest way to get word of a prisoner of war is to write the prisoners. The bureau has copies of all information coming into this country from prisoners. Even information written by prisoners to relatives or friends is included in the report.

The public can expect more information reported as war prisoners soon, but so far the majority have been airmen, the bureau officials said. German prison camps, where Americans often are reported to be, include Dulag Luft where all airmen go first. Oberwellen on the bank of the Rhine where the enemy punks them for information. Stalag Luft I, about 100 miles southeast of Berlin, and Stalag Luft III, with a view of the bay across from Sweden, the camp where all air mail is censored.

Hitler Now Fortifying His Mountain Retreat

WASHINGTON. — An estimated 45,000 workers are fortifying Adolf Hitler's Berchtesgaden retreat and the total strength of the command can be reduced either temporarily or permanently.

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